

Message Text

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65-60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

PA-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 INT-05 /109 W

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R 231633Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1399

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07882

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, UK, US

SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL'S PLANS FOR
COMMONWEALTH COMMODITIES STUDY

1. RETIRING COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL ARNOLD SMITH
TOLD AMBASSADOR ON MAY 21 THAT HE WOULD APPOINT COMMON-
WEALTH COMMITTEE OF TEN WISE MEN AT END OF WEEK TO BEGIN
STUDY ON COMMODITIES CALLED FOR AT COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT MEETING. COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ORGANIZATIONAL
MEETING PROBABLY IN LONDON IN JUNE AND WILL HOPEFULLY
REACH AGREEMENT ON RESEARCH AREAS TO BE COVERED BY STUDY.
IN JULY THERE WILL BE SUBSTANTIVE MEETING AT OTTAWA AND
HOPEFULLY INTERIM REPORT WILL BE ADOPTED FOR SUBMISSION
TO COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS PRIOR TO THEIR MEETING
NORMALLY HELD JUST BEFORE IMF IBRD MEETINGS.

2. SMITH EVIDENTLY AS DELIGHTED WITH RESULTS OF
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KINGSTON MEETING AS OTHER RETURNING PARTICIPANTS HAVE

BEEN. HE SAID HE FELT THERE WAS NO DIVISION BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES AT MEETING, AND THAT DESPITE TONE OF PRESS COMMENT, THERE WAS NO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF WILSON AND BURNHAM PROPOSALS. BURNHAM WAS CLOSELY SUPPORTED BY PRIME MINISTERS MANLEY AND WHITTLAM WHO IN FACT WERE WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME FORM OF INDEXATION FOR ALUMINUM.

3. AMBASSADOR TOLD SMITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT LET CHASM DEVELOP BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT THAT WE SHOULD ALL WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP MECHANISMS TO PROTECT EACH OTHER AGAINST FLUCTUATIONS IN WORLD COMMODITY PRICES.

4. SMITH ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE WELL WORTHWHILE FOR COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT AND EMBASSY OFFICERS DEALING WITH COMMODITIES TO EXPLORE VARIOUS PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD IN PAST AND THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA, AND SMITH NOMINATED SECRETARIAT COMMODITIES EXPERT, GORDON GOUNDRY, A CANADIAN, AS CONTACT. WE EXPECT TO CONSULT AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM AS COMMITTEE WORK PROGRESSES.

5. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT SEE THIS TELEGRAM PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM LONDON.

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